

Remarks

It is respectfully requested that claims 1, and 4 - 10 and 12 - 16 be reconsidered for allowance in view of this Amendment and these Remarks, claims 2, 3, 11 and 17 - 20 having been cancelled and withdrawn from consideration.

Applicant is filing herewith a Disclosure Statement including references cited in an PCT Search Report. Applicant directs the Examiners attention particularly to reference JP 63-207750.

Page 9 and the "Assignment" thereon is cancelled.

Claims 1-9, 11-15 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 5,149,149) in view of Krogsrud (US 4,160,536).

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to more accurately define the present invention. Amended claim 1 recites a detent device for releasably holding the upper support in selected positions relative to the lower support, the detent device comprises at least two recesses formed in an end of one of the upper and lower supports, and the other of the upper and lower supports having a detent member which is selectively receivable by the recesses. Claim 1 is also amended to recite a spring received by and coupled between the tube and rod members and biased to urge the tube and rod members towards each other.

This is supported by original claims 2 and 3, and by Fig. 3 which clearly shows recesses 44 and 46 formed in an end of retainer 40 which is part of lower support 28, and which shows bushing 60 with detent member 62 which is selectively receivable by the recesses 44, 46. This is also supported by spring 70 which is received by members 54/60 and member 32 and is biased to hold rod 54 and tube 32 together.

Turning to the references, reference JP 63-207750 shows a spring 4 received by a tube 5, but spring 4 is not received by any other part and is not biased to urge rod 3 and tube 5 towards each other. Instead, it appears that spring 4 acts merely as a shock absorber.

In connection with original claims 9 and 11, the Examiner states that Krogsrud discloses a spring 84 which is biased to urge the tube and rod members toward each other. However, spring 84 is received only by a tube 34 and not by any other part.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to advance a prime facie case of obviousness. Applicant submits that the Examiner does not give a valid motivation for applying the teachings of the Krogsrud reference to Wu. The Examiner fails to explain how a spring would be combined with the structure of Wu. The Examiner also ignores the fact that a spring would interfere with tube detachment when grooves 31, 31' are aligned with each other, and ignores the fact that a spring would be superfluous to Wu since the parts in Wu are firmly connected together when the pins are received in the locating grooves. Thus, the reference, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1. Thus, amended claim 1 should be allowed.

Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled and their subject matter has been added to amended claim 1.

Claims 4 - 10 should be allowed because they now depend directly or indirectly from allowable amended claim 1.

Similarly, claim 12 should be allowed for the reasons set forth above because it also recites a spring coupled between the tube and rod members, the spring being received by the tube member and the rod member, and being biased to urge the tube and rod members towards each other.

Claims 13 - 16 should be allowed because they now depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 12.

In conclusion, none of the references, alone or together, shows the subject matter recited in amended claims 1, 12 and 17, and it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

Respectfully,

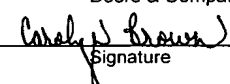


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Attachment: Disclosure Statement

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